LIFE IN NATURE ON THE SANDY SHORE

New Buffalo Times

NEWS
$1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN • SINCE 1942

CHICAGO • LONG BEACH • MICHIANA SHORES • GRAND BEACH • NEW BUFFALO • UNION PIER • THREE OAKS • LAKESIDE • HARBERT • SAWYER

issue 46, volume 82 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, November 16, 2023

Three Oaks Village ordinance may temporarily effect growth of marijuana businesses **PAGE 3**

Chikaming Township Board approves short term rental ordinance amendments **PAGES 4-5**

School board receives update on attainable housing project **PAGE 6**

Lakers begin season ranked high nationally **PAGE 9**

Accepting the Call: Jeff and Cindy Dryden reflect on years of ministry in the community **PAGES 10-11**

THANK YOU...

NEW BUFFALO STUDENTS RECOGNIZE 'HOMETOWN HEROES'

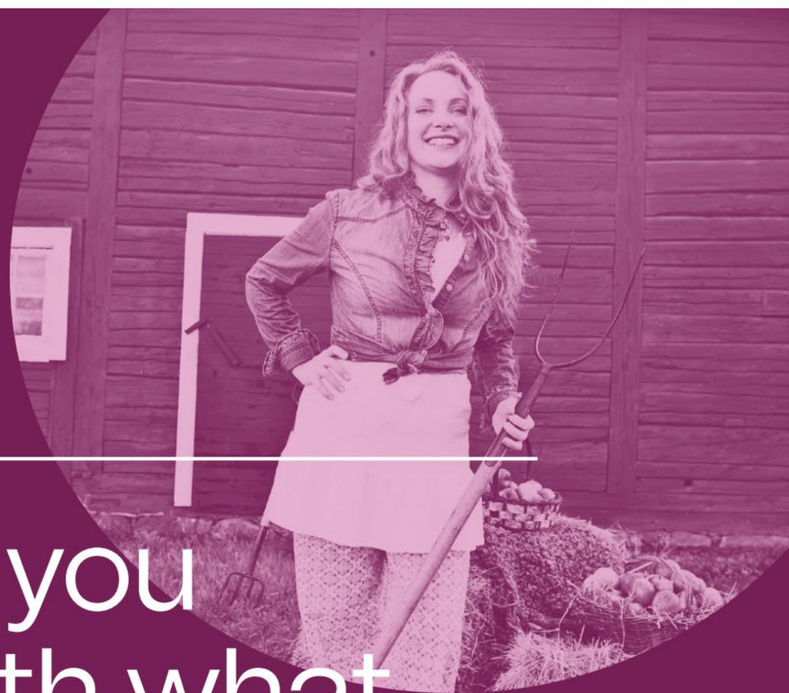
— PAGE 18 —

PHOTO OF MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 169 COLOR GUARD STANDING AT THE FRONT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

RIOS
PREMIUM MEXICAN CUISINE
NEW BUFFALO

Trust It To Be Wonderful
Timothy's
RESTAURANT
16409 Red Arrow Highway | Union Pier

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS
HARBOR COUNTRY INSURANCE AGENCY
Gregory A. Bubb, CIC
269-469-4438
212 S Whittaker St.
New Buffalo, MI
www.HARBORCOUNTRYINSURANCE.com


Helping you grow with what you've got.
See current certificate rates and terms at everwisecu.com/certificates
everwise CREDIT UNION
Federally insured by NCUA. Subject to membership requirements.

Your Neighbors in New Buffalo, MI
Sal & Allison Q.
Your Ford Dealer in Countryside, IL
We Appreciate Your Business
westfield
est. 1985 countryside
Ford
Established 1985
www.westfieldford.com
6200 S. La Grange Road Countryside, IL 60525
708-354-8600 • Ask for Carm, Nick S. or Michael Q.

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

ETHICS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM
MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER

PROPRIETOR
NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.

EDITOR
NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
EDITORIAL BOARD

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
JOE DURK

REPORTERS/WRITERS
THERESE DONNELLY
FRANCESCA SAGALA
LAWRENCE VON EBELER
KURT MARGGRAF
ALEXANDER FATOUROS
SOPHIA ROSE FATOUROS
STAN MADDUX
KRISTIN E. FATOUROS
NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
NEW BUFFALO TIMES POLITICS
GUESTS

QUOTES
DINO N. FATOUROS

PROOFING
FRANCESCA SAGALA

BROADCAST/ADVERTISING
JANINE ADAMSKI (630) 370-0820
OR JANINEADAMSKI@GMAIL.COM

SUGGESTIONS, CRITICISM, IDEAS
MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

ADVERTISING
MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

CLASSIFIED ADS
CLASSIFIEDS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

SUBSCRIPTIONS
SUBSCRIPTIONS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY
WITH NEW BUFFALO TIMES
INFO@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

Periodical Postage paid in
New Buffalo, MI. Postmaster,
please send address changes to

NEW BUFFALO TIMES
PO BOX 369, New Buffalo, MI 49117

©2023 NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.
PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

NEW BUFFALO TIMES distribution:
Milda's Corner Market • Customs Imports
Sawyer Garden Center • The Whistle Stop
David's Delicatessen • Grand Variety
Barney's • Knoll Bros. • Stray Dog
Infusco Coffee Roasters
Black Currant Bakehouse
The Marina Grand • Redamak's
Outpost Sports • Big C Lumber
Between Casey's and Nancy's
Sawyer Hardware • The Harbor Grand
Froehlics . Three Oaks
Journeyman Distillery . Three Oaks
The Acorn Theater . Three Oaks
The Lakeside Inn

For the most convenient location, you can subscribe to get the *NEW BUFFALO TIMES* in your mailbox or inbox. Please email us for E-TIMES, info@newbuffalotimes.com.

Three Oaks Village ordinance may temporarily effect growth of marijuana businesses

BY THERESE DONNELLY

A new village ordinance will temporarily halt the growth of marijuana businesses in Three Oaks.

Following a closed session meeting to discuss attorney opinion, the Three Oaks Village Council approved an ordinance amendment that imposes a temporary moratorium on new marijuana-focused businesses in the village while the council looks to amend ordinances 219 and 221 Wednesday, Nov. 8.

The moratorium will end no later than March 20, 2024, and could end sooner if the ordinance amendments are approved before that deadline.

After discussion with Andrew Rudd, civil engineer with Wightman and Associates, the council agreed to a loan from the State of Michigan to fund the wastewater system improvement project. Rudd explained the village had not received grant funding it had hoped for, but the state was offering a loan from its revolving fund at 2% interest - much lower, he said, than currently available at other loaning sources.

The state has offered a $2.3 million loan, though the council discussed possibly borrowing less than that amount. Rudd said it was too late in the current grant cycle for the village to apply for the next round of grants.

The council tabled discussion on the proposed golf cart ordinance until their December meeting. They also tabled further discussion on sewer tap-in fees, with Village Manager Dan Faulkner saying he would have more information to discuss soon.

The council will soon need to fill a seat, as councilmember Tyler Ream announced at the November meeting that he will be moving out of the village near the end of the year. Village residency is a requirement to serve on the council, so Ream will be ineligible to complete his term, which would have normally ended in November 2024. The rest of the council expressed regret at Ream's announcement.

Faulkner presented the council with quotes for a new pickup truck for the Department of Public Works. The council approved the quote from Siemens Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Bridgman. Councilmember John Kramer noted he preferred to purchase from local vendors when possible; however, the quote from Siemens was significantly lower than the local quote.

Along with the new truck, the DPW will also get new garage doors for the Street Department building. The council approved a quote from MC Doors, contingent on confirmation the price includes door openers.

The council approved the 2024 calendars, including village events, meeting schedules and holiday schedules. Additionally, the approved the annual employee appreciation bonus for village employees.

Several committee and commission terms are about to expire. The council voted to reappoint Marlene Kramer and Larry Shaver to the Parks and Recreation Board, Gene Svebakken and Dennis Wojtczak to the Planning Commission, Eric Derucki to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Dave Thomas to the Construction Board of Appeals. Two other seats on the CBA are vacant.

Councilmember Lois Jones pointed out that Edward White, Jr's term on the Parks Board also expired. Faulkner said he hadn't been aware of the end of the term and would have to confirm if White wanted to serve another term.

Svebakken received recognition from the council for recently completing the Master Citizen Planner certification. Smith said the program required Svebakken to complete 18 hours of training, pass and exam and make a capstone presentation.

When presented with his certificate, Svebakken explained, "I grew up with the understanding that public service is a noble calling." He added that he is grateful to those who give to their community.

In public comment, property owner Anne Hart thanked Faulkner and village employees for recent work after sewer issues in front of her property, but asked who was responsible for costs. Faulkner said he would speak with her about the issue but explained the village had learned the gas company had cut through sewer laterals at the property. He said there may be other damaged laterals, but right now only the Linden property is connected to reveal the damage.

Seed investing is the status symbol of Silicon Valley. Most people don't want Ferraris, they want a winning seed investment. — *Sam Altman*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times
Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Chikaming Township Board approves short term rental ordinance amendments

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Chikaming Township Board of Trustees approved amendments to the short-term rental ordinance at their Thursday, Nov. 9.

Board members approved the amendments to the township's short-term rental ordinance in a 4-1 vote, with Rich Sullivan being the dissenting vote.

Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte said that the amendments arose from many discussions and meetings with the township attorney and the township's public safety and code enforcement. In addition, the proposed amended ordinance was also on the township's website for three weeks.

He said the amendments were made due to problems from "repeat offenders."

Sullivan drew attention to the penalties and offenses part of the ordinance, where the township's noise and nuisance ordinance is referenced. Per the ordinance, "any owner, manager or agent who violates any of the provisions is responsible for a municipal civil infraction for not less than $100 or not more than $500 plus costs and sanctions." The ordinance further states that the fine "for any offense which is a first repeat offense shall be less than $250" and the fine "for any offense which is a second repeat offense or any subsequent repeat offense shall not be less than $500 plus costs and other sanctions."

"Are these the same penalties we would charge a homeowner who's not renting their house that there's a call to their house about the noise and nuisance ordinance - are we charging someone the same who happens to be using his house as a short of even long term rental, is the fee consistent or different because it's a rental?" he said, and asked if the issue is "with noise or is the issue with who's making the noise."

Bunte said that it's his belief that short term rentals are being utilized as "commercial operations" that're operating in a residential area.

"They should therefore be held accountable and responsible for the people on their property and what their impact is on a neighboring property," he said.

Board members approved switching from Granicus Host Compliance to Deckard Technologies and its program, Rentalscape, to assist the township with its short-term rental properties in a 4-1 vote, with Sullivan being the dissenting vote.

Bunte said that they've had some issues over the past few years with Granicus, which have been discussed with fire chief Allen Weich, police chief Todd Taylor and code enforcement officer Greg Nelson.

As a result of code enforcement transitioning to being under the public safety department, a couple other companies have reached out to the township to assist with managing the program.

The 24/7 hotline, which had been offered under Granicus, will be replaced with an online complaint form for rental properties; however, a paper complaint form can still be submitted and the police can still be called.

The calling centers are not in the United States, which have resulted in street or address names being wrong.

"The transcribing has not been as accurate as it needs to be so the benefits of that calling has been negligible," Butne said.

Per the executive summary, Sullivan said Rentlscape shows upcoming rentals and bookings as they occur within 24 hours of the reservation being made.

Weich said that Rentalscape monitors different websites, which helps build up statistics "to help us track how often these properties are being rented."

"All they're doing is using publicly available information on VRBO to then accumulate all the information for us as administrators of the program to monitor how often properties are actually benign rented out," he said.

Sullivan said that not all rentals utilize platforms like VRBO, such as those who choose to advertise with a sign and a phone number in front of their house.

He added that Rentalscape stated that it has "increased compliance and improved tax collection" in jurisdictions and asked if that was the township's goal.

"When we started this program, we just wanted these (short term rentals) licensed for safety reasons...This is starting to get pretty invasive into people," he said.

Board members approved the 2023-2025 road asset management plan.

Time, the devourer of all things.
— Ovid

K. John Egelhaaf, executive director of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, said the report is based on the concept of the PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) system, and every mile of the township's road network has been rated from 1 to 10.

In 2017, 73% of township roads were in poor condition, which is between 1 and 4. Five years later, as a result of the township's road millage, only 13% of roads are in poor condition, 50% are in the fair category (which is a PASER rating that's between 5-7) and 36% are good (between 8-10).

The average PASER rating of the township's roads in 2017 was 3.8, in the poor category, with at least half of the roads in bad shape; now, it's 6.6%.

Bunte said the township has an annual budget of $630,000 and they've been able to accumulate an occurring balance in the road fund that's a little over $600,000. This doesn't include the millage for this fiscal year, which is still to be collected in the winter tax bill, which would give the township a balance of $1.3 million.

He added that the township is "going a little bit more aggressively" in major projects. A project that's slated for 2024-2025 in Union Pier, which will follow a drain project, will repave and resurface all roads that are in really bad shape "to the tune of close to $400,000." The preliminary numbers for reconstruction on Harbert Road east of Three Oaks Road are coming in close to $600,000, Bunte said. Due to the township's balance from the past six years and the millage revenues from this year, the township will be able to get this reconstruction work done.

Bunte said that the township's agreement with Midwest Energy & Communications, which was awarded the ROBIN grant for broadband expansion in the county, and the funds the township have committed to the project should be available by next month's meeting. The majority of the eastern portion of the township will be included in the Weesaw Township group, which includes the installation of 51.2 miles of fiber and construction beginning in the first quarter of 2025. Residents can see if they're eligible for the program and sign up for it, which includes an initial install cost of $100, at teammidwest.com.

Board members approved an ARPA SPARKS Grant Agreement for improvements to Harbert Community Park as well as the documentation for the project's request for proposal. Bunte said that the township was awarded $878,000 and that the grant requires $97,000 in matching funds.

Board members approved a Michigan Fire Association Mutual Aid Agreement with Lake Charter Township.

A request from parks director Joe Martin for the submission of a grant in the amount of $5,000 from the Realtors Association for mobi mats for Berrien Street handicap accessibility was approved.

A request for proposal, which was put together by the planning commission, for the rewriting of the township's master plan was approved.

The grant bid award recommendation by Weich to Westshore Fire with regards to the FEMA regional grant to purchase air tanks for Chikaming Township, Three Oaks and New Buffalo Township was approved.

Board members approved a fire department budget amendment request, which includes increasing the line item in equipment maintenance from the current $12,000 to $50,000 for vehicle apparatus repairs.

A request from Weich for changes to open burning permit rules and regulation was approved. After researching what other municipalities have in place, Weich said he tried to "bring in that verbiage altogether to make it a cleaner and more encompassing set of rules" that will also give some enforcing capabilities for the fire department.

Board members approved changing the office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closing from noon to 12:30 p.m. for lunch to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the lunch hour unchanged.

TROTOM to participate in 'Snowflake Stroll'

SLEIGH PHOTO OP AND 'PRANCER VILLAGE' DISPLAY

The Region of Three Oaks Museum will offer a couple of ways for folks to enjoy the "Snowflake Stroll" Saturday, Nov. 28.

For a fourth straight year, the museum will display the scale model of Three Oaks village used in the 1989 film "Prancer." The film's director, John Hancock, will drop in to answer questions and sign "Prancer" memorabilia, and the model's creator, Don Bowman, will also be on hand at Three Oaks Heritage Hall at 8 East Linden Street.

If weather permits, the museum will also provide a great opportunity for families to take holiday photos in an antique sleigh. The 19th century sleigh, part of the collection of the Chamberlain Museum, which operated in Three Oaks from 1916-1952, was recently returned to TROTOM from Michigan State University.

The sleigh, with a festive Christmas paint job and festooned with evergreens, will be in the parking lot of Mannia Dental near the corner of Linden and Elm streets, placed in front of a festive, snowy pine tree forest background. Anyone with a camera or cell phone is invited to pose their nearest and dearest in and around the sleigh for a fun holiday family photo.

There is no charge for either the sleigh photo op or to view the miniature Three Oaks model, though donations are always welcome. The Region of Three Oaks Museum is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of the Three Oaks area. — STAFF REPORTS

THREE OAKS LIBRARY INVITES CHILDREN TO DROP OFF LETTERS TO SANTA

The Three Oaks Township Public Library has been notified that Santa's elves will be dropping off their special mailbox at the library Sunday, Nov. 19.

This one-of-a-kind mailbox sends letters directly to Santa at the North Pole. Children are invited to stop in the library and fill out a special letter to Santa – or bring their own from home – and drop it in the mailbox.

The library hosts storytime for all ages from 10:30 to 11 a.m. every Tuesday.

Every Wednesday, the Knitting and Crocheting Circle meets from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Individuals of all skill levels are invited to bring their projects.

Every Thursday, the Lego Club meets the library all day. Projects will stay on display for one week. Storytime for all ages also takes place Thursdays from 4:30 – 5 p.m.

Take and Make Craft Bags for children are available. at the Checkout Desk every day.

Follow the library on Facebook and visit www.threeoaks.michlibrary.org for all the latest information and events. — STAFF REPORTS

SCHOLASTICS

School board receives update on attainable housing project

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The process of having attainable housing in New Buffalo is moving along, members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education learned at their Monday, Nov. 13, meeting.

Dr. Michael Lindley, who served as interim superintendent last school year, gave an update on the Planned Unit Development (PUD) that would be located across from the elementary school by using the format from the bond resolution that board members approved that night.

The district was originally planning to break ground on the project next spring; however, with the exception of carving out a Building and Trades site for next summer, the project has been delayed until spring of 2025.

Lindley said they've received three Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) proposals and interviewed two. One developer was focused on low-income housing with tax credits and other subsidies while the other focused on "middle," or working families and a lower density. The district is working closely with the latter, as Lindley said they believe it "best fits our needs."

Lindley said they've received three Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) proposals and interviewed two. One developer was focused on low-income housing with tax credits and other subsidies while the other focused on "middle," or working families and a lower density. The district is working closely with the latter, as Lindley said they believe it "best fits our needs."

Preserving the wetlands and trail system, which encompasses around 75% of the total property, to the greatest extent possible is important and will be written into any contract that the district signs with the developer. Once the footprint of the area has been developed, steps to preserve the land will be taken.

Attracting school age families is important, which means a mix of 1-, 2- or 3-bedroom units,, as well as ensuring the housing is designed for year-round residents and not short-term rentals. The project will have at least 15 private homesites for the building trades program, which will be written into the contract..

The PUD process requires preliminary and final approval from New Buffalo Township, since it's located there, with reviews by the Berrien County Road Department and the city and county.

Regarding working with the state and federal government, Lindley said that the district is trying to earmark monies from the federal government and that the deadline for applying for 2025 funds is March 1, 2024. There's been speculation that funds may not be available in 2025 due to there being a new Speaker of the House.

Also incorporated into the document is that there's a natural barrier between the existing homes and the development. Once the number of units and unit types are identified, a meeting with the neighbors will occur.

Regarding private partners, Lindley said that they've talked with a developer over the weekend, who will be in contact with the district's legal counsel this week. Board members will have input on what should be in the contract, with the attorney putting all the input together and having everything in place hopefully by the Christmas break.

Marketing the project is a priority. Lindley said that he and superintendent Adam Bowen spoke at a Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce mixer last week, during which 28 people signed a letter in support of the project.

Board members authorized the Youth Advisory Council to submit a Municipal Grant to the Pokagon Fund in the amount of $5,000.

Bowen said that council members wanted to approach the Fund for their support in distributing baskets of food to families in need by Dec. 20.

A public hearing was held, during which no one gave feedback, on how the district should spend Grant 31aa funds with regards to mental health and school security.

Bowen said that feedbackis required regarding funds they get from the state around mental health and safety, adding that the grants used to be separate but now are combined into 31aa.

Last year, the district received around $100,000 for mental health and security. The district must use half of the funds for mental health and the other half for security. Funds for mental health are typically spent on personnel and last year, money for security was spent toward the flashing lights by the middle/high school and elementary school.

Bowen added that he sent out a survey to everyone in the district last year regarding how they should use the funds, and said they have 49 responses so far.

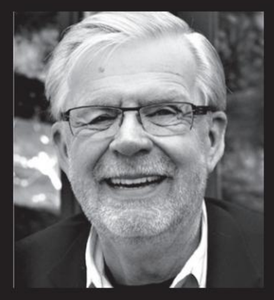
Regarding the ongoing elementary school kitchen and cafeteria rebuild project, Bowen said that fencing is around the site and where materials will be dropped. Two job trailers, one from Skillman and the other from Gibson-Lewis LLC, the general contractor, are onsite. The excavator has also started stripping the soil and removed some concrete and two trees.

The following have been approved for employment by Bowen: Rich Knoll, varsity girls basketball; Sarah Clark, assistant coach for girls basketball; Melinda Batey, day care lead, pending background check; Darrick Fairchild, robotics coach and Shawn Drewes, Sara Mead, Michael Megyesi, BASE coaches. Bowen said that Batey has over 15 years of daycare experience and will replace the lead who resigned at the beginning of the school year.

Board members learned that the last day of employment for Cindy King, administrative assistant for the elementary school, was Oct. 24.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The sporting world is still my favorite place to hang out.

The possibility of getting softer as I grow older is not lost on me.

In the past, I used to put winning above all else. It didn't really matter if I liked the players on my favorite teams or if they played the game the way I thought it should be played, if they won I would overlook all of their faults.

Then, out of the blue, the Cubs won the World Series. I was thrilled not only because the Cubs won, but also because I liked so many of their players. With success comes problems, and the war between my head and my heart began to rage in earnest.

Things are rarely black and white, so a couple of years later, when the GM decided that he didn't want to lose David Ross to another team, they hired him to be their manager. Because Ross was a great guy I was temporarily elated before I realized that meant the team was firing Joe Maddon, the same Joe Maddon that had managed the Cubs to their first World Series victory in 108 years.

Soon afterwards, the team decided they no longer wanted postseason hero Kyle Schwarber on their team, and the deconstruction was picking up steam. Rizzo, Bryant, Baez, eventually every member of the team except pitcher Kyle Hendricks and all the coaches were gone. Hendricks, GM Jed Hoyer, and owner Tom Rickets were the only ones that remained.

Until last week, David Ross was still with the team, but he was let go, even though he had done a fine job, in order to hire one of the best managers in baseball, Craig Counsel.

Ever since free agency began in baseball, fans have been fearful of losing their favorite players to other teams because local ownership couldn't, or wouldn't meet their financial demands. I suppose this is old school thinking, but I wish there was something in place to even the playing field.

Before free agency, the owners took advantage of the players and underpaid them so badly that they fought hard to establish a system so that they could be paid fairly. Now, free agency is used by players and their agents to unfairly get overpaid which leads to salaries so high that bringing a family to a game becomes almost impossible to afford for middle class families. Even though my favorite team, the Cubs, often benefit from free agency because they can afford to pay players, the cost of tickets, beer and hotdogs, and parking excludes many and isn't , in the long run, good for the game.

The bottom line is, when someone wants to be a part of your team who is a fan favorite and World Series winner, and you decide to cast him away in order to hire another teams hero, it hurts fans even if it proves successful. The Cubs are still my favorite team, but if Grandpa Rossi ends up managing against them, I will be rooting for Ross.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

La Porte to again host top notch basketball tourney

BY STAN MADDUX

Some of the best college prep boys' basketball talent in the nation will be showcased again in La Porte.

The third annual nationally televised La Porte Invitational is scheduled to begin Jan. 4 at the newly renovated Civic Auditorium.

La Lumiere, which is ranked No. 4 nationally, will be among the teams competing in the three-day basketball extravaganza.

La Lumiere Head Coach Pat Holmes said some of the players from past tourneys have gone on to the NBA and about 20 major college basketball programs.

Among the players on this year's roster for La Lumiere are Jalen Haralson, who has offers from schools like Indiana, Purdue, Michigan, and Gonzaga, and Danny Murray, who's being recruited by schools like the University of Massachusetts.

La Lumiere along with the city and the La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau have partnered to host the tourney and the historic Civic Auditorium in each of the past three seasons.

LCCVB Executive Director Jack Arnett said the goal is to secure a long-term deal for the event now under contract from year to year.

He said the nationwide exposure for La Porte from the games being televised by ESPN is beneficial for the community.

"Anytime we can bring this caliber of talent to La Porte and then have the national media, the ESPN type folks, follow them in that's great for the community. "That's the kind of stuff you can't pay for," he said.

People attending gams at the tournament, which has drawn a near packed house at times, are sure to notice more comfortable recently installed balcony seats.

The original narrow, wooden seats from the structure open since 1930 were replaced over the summer.

The new seats are wider and cushioned with built in cup holders.

Other improvements included widened aisles leading to and from the seats along with hand rails for the comfort and safety of spectators.

Arnett said the upgrades have done nothing to hurt the historic, "Hoosiers" like atmosphere of the structure.

"Still has that same feel. It's just going to be a little more comfortable," he said.

La Porte Parks Superintendent Mark Schreiber said having so many high caliber athletes in one location is rare except in large metropolitan areas.

"Just on this La Lumiere roster alone you've got kids recruited by national powerhouses. Now, you bring in ten more teams with the same caliber players, it tells you what type of event it is," he said.

"We're pretty pumped, Schreiber said.

The La Porte Invitational will feature teams from the National Interscholastic Basketball Conference, which includes La Lumiere and college prep from as far east as New York City and Arizona to the west.

Tickets are available at La Portecivicauditorium.org.

Prices start at $20 for a general admission seat for an entire day of games.

Two days of the tourney will each feature three games while four games will be played on the remaining day.

Lakers begin season ranked high nationally

BY STAN MADDUX

The nationally ranked La Lumiere college prep boys' basketball team held an open practice last week at the La Porte Civic Auditorium.

Head Coach Pat Holmes said his team with just two returning players from last year has the potential to bring home a national championship, but this year's crop of new players need time to learn how to play better together.

"We're very talented but it's a lot of new guys," he said.

The Lakers won the first four games of the season with the narrowest margin of victory being 38 points.

For a moment, Holmes during practice led his players off the court for a quick tongue-lashing on the need to play with more energy.

"Our competitive spirit needs to get better. It's early. We'll get there," he said.

La Lumiere, which has several graduates in the NBA, won the national title in 2017 and has come close several times since then.

Expected to lead the way for the Lakers is junior Jalen Haralson.

The 6'7" Haralson, recruited by NCAA Division 1 teams like Indiana, Purdue, and Duke transferred from Fishers near Indianapolis.

He says he came to La Lumiere to improve from being pushed harder by the coaches and playing against better competition.

"I can definitely see the improvements in my body, my mindset, my skill set. I feel like I took this really well," he said.

Senior Steven Solano, of New York City, is also expected to make a good impact as the 6'11" center makes slam-dunking the ball seem almost effortless.

"A lot of special players come to his program. I'm just looking for a place where I can develop my talent and be in the best position possible to get to the next level whether it's college or the NBA," he said.

He's being recruited by universities like St. John's, Loyola-Chicago, and Michigan.

After practice, several players signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans.

Doug Nelson, a longtime fan of the Lakers with children presently enrolled at the school, said the team could become as good as the 2016-17 national championship squad.

His son traveled with that team and produced a video documenting the season.

Nelson, who lives just a five-minute drive from the campus, said not is the team loaded with talent but the players appear to have the makings of great chemistry on and off the court.

"They're an incredible group of guys that seem to have synergy and that kind of magic when everybody that play together likes each other," he said.

Staying 'calm' in any situation, be it when you are angry, sad or under pressure is indeed a super power.

— Bruce Lee

1 in 7 children faces hunger.

There's more than enough food in America for every child who struggles with hunger. Help get kids the food they need by supporting Feeding America, the nationwide network of food banks. Together, we can solve hunger™.
Join us at **FeedingAmerica.org**

ad COUNCIL

FEEDING AMERICA

Accepting the Call

JEFF AND CINDY DRYDEN REFLECT ON YEARS OF MINISTRY IN THE COMMUNITY

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

It was Jeff and Cindy Dryden whom Troy Gentz had to thank for accepting his calling to be lead pastor at Freshwater Community Church.

"I probably wouldn't be in ministry without you...I might have been in jail," he quipped, and mumbled a reference to a "couple of those youth trips."

Gentz was just one of many friends, colleagues and family members who had something to say about Jeff and Cindy during their "non retirement" retirement celebration at Sawyer Highlands Church in Sawyer Sunday, Nov. 12.

Gentz, who emceed the event, was an intern at Sawyer Highland before leading the church's youth ministry.

"You said to me when I left this place, the best ministry was ahead... This isn't about an end, this is about the next chapter - I think the work you're doing in ministry around the world in places we can't speak of, it might be Kingdom impact you're speaking to people, training people that if they go to jail, they could be killed tonight. Perhaps in some ways, the ministry you're doing now will be even greater than the ministry you've had here," he said.

Jeff, who's been leading the church for over 30 years, has served in the roles of youth pastor, missionary in Romania and pastor of small groups at Sawyer Highlands. Since 2000, he has served as lead pastor.

Cindy called Sunday's gathering a "big family reunion."

"It's been 36 plus years and what I've been doing over the last few months has been accelerated in the last few weeks...I've been thinking through all these years and the different people we've journeyed with and loved along the way - some not with us anymore, some across the ocean - but all the same as I reflect, I think of every person and my heart is full of so much love it could just burst," she said.

Being pastor of a church for so long, Jeff said that he's weathered the "good and the bad."

"Sometimes, we hang onto the things we regret, the tough parts of life...What you end up seeing, when a pastor is in a place for so long, is the way God took that thing and redeemed it and got his fingerprints on it," he said.

Jeff added that the church has a pastoral team that has long longevity, with so many of them who've been "raised up and came to the faith here" - which is unusual.

"That's the beauty of a local church, because it's real people, real story, but it's real God in that just like the scriptures are - and that's worship," he said.

"You remember the conversations, remember sitting through some 119 vows in a wedding, you've got all these things in your mind you remember - it's all a part of God."

In 2015, the church opened its New Buffalo campus, Converge Community Church.

Originally called Lakeview, Diane Warnke said the church started with people in the New Buffalo area "who saw a need for the unchurched." Services were held at Lions Park and on the patio

Jeff and Cindy Dryden listen to their children, Elisha Dryden, Caleb Dryden, Hannah Dryden, Noelie Dryden, Amber Smith and Bethany Darling

Past elder David Smeltzer speaks of the impact Jeff and Cindy Dryden had on the church

The packed church celebrates Jeff and Cindy Dryden

Troy Gentz talks with Jeff and Cindy Dryden

Rick Blake speaks to Jeff and Cindy Dryden at their nonretirement celebration

The Dryden family sings together during the celebration

at Nancy's before becoming year-round at the New Buffalo Middle/High School cafeteria.

On June 14, 2015, Converge had a grand opening at its building on Buffalo Street under the leadership of Jeff and associate pastors Mike and Rob.

Its opening led the couple to "trust God" and move from Sawyer to New Buffalo with their children who still lived at home, Hannah and Elisha.

"They would walk everywhere, meet people, attend events and be part of things at the school and develop many relationships with people in the community…Both knew how your relationship is how you bring people to Christ," Warnke said.

Noelle Dryden, one of six of Jeff and Cindy's children, said that it was challenging for them to grow up as pastor's kids.

Their parent's love for God, each other and for them never wavered, though.

"These things, more than any other, served as our anchors, which is one reason why we have made it through some of the storms life has brought - and we all love God and follow him with all of our hearts and all of our strength, one day at a time," she said.

Daughter Bethany Darling said her parents "modeled humility, teachability, grace and forgiveness."

"Being Jeff and Cindy's kids meant we saw the hard things through and how they walked through them and learned to trust in the good of their Father," she said.

Upon the Drydens returning with their children from spending over three years in Romania, it was discovered that Sawyer Highland had three pastors. Past elder David Smeltzer said that Jeff formed "life groups."

"We had a vision, we had a purpose and you had a passion to reach the unreachable and small groups were launched," he said.

In addition to Romania, Jeff also trained pastors in central Asia. Jeff Degner, who first met Jeff in the summer of 1988 when the Drydens first moved to Sawyer and Jeff was a youth pastor, said Jeff encouraged him to enter the mission field.

He boarded a plane bound for Romania 1997, with his priest, Jeremiah, and Jeff alongside him.

"That pattern of sacrifice and love has been such an encouragement and factor in my life that has led to an emboldened personhood to do some things and be a part of things in my natural self I'd be far too timid to be a part of," he said.

Cindy encouraged him in his music ministry, he said. For many years, she led Harbor Country Singers, which performed at various local events.

"I felt I had a fan, I had someone encourage me in all those ways to be excellent in what I did, and her constant encouragement to me throughout the years, whether it was in music ministry or the opportunities teach at Sawyer really together along with Jeff's encouragement brought us through some tough times," he said, adding that he served on the church's elder board.

If the elders approve, Jeff said ministering in foreign countries remains on the horizon.

No matter where they go, he and Cindy will still be a part of everyone's lives, he said.

"I don't know what He's going to do ahead but it's going to be okay as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus - that's how I love for us all to come away with this," he said.

2024 Bud Prince and Princess, Miss Jr. Teen and Miss Teen Blossomtime Pageant on tap for this weekend

There will be 20 girls and two boys between the ages of 6 and 9 who will compete for the title of Bud Prince and Princess, 10 young ladies ages 10-12 who will be competing for the title of Miss Junior Teen and 19 young women ages 13-15 who will be competing for the title of Miss Teen of Blossomtime at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, at the St. Joseph High School Auditorium in St. Joseph, Michigan.

Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door for $25 (cash or check only) or may be ordered by calling the Blossomtime office at 269-982-8016. This event is open to the public.

The theme this year is "Thanksgiving Party." All the contestants will participate in an opening number dancing to "Thank You for Being a Friend," choreographed by Christine Waterhouse from Fusion Center for Dance. The emcee for the afternoon is Lindsay LeValley.

The Blossomtime Festival Bud Prince and Princess, Miss Junior Teen and Miss Teen of Blossomtime will take an active role in the festival and participate in many of the Blossomtime events, including onstage introduction at the Mr Blossomtime Pageant April 14, 2024. All contestants are invited to ride on the Bud/Junior/Teen floats in the Grand Floral Parade Saturday May 11, 2024. — STAFF REPORTS

SINGERS TO PERFORM HOLIDAY CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

The Harbor Country Singers community choir will perform its annual holiday concert at 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert.

The concert is free, but donations are welcome. A food item donation, such as nutrient-rich peanut butter or pull-tab cans of soups, stews, tuna, ravioli, spaghetti, or anything that is easy to heat is requested for Neighbor by Neighbor, a nonprofit connecting Harbor Country residents to social services.

The concert will be a blend of secular and sacred music and will contain Christmas and Hanukkah songs. It will feature area musicians, including a brass quintet and a piano, guitar, and bass trio. Songs will include favorites "Silent Night", "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year", "Light One Candle" and many others.

"We're so excited to be bringing this concert to the community. This concert is a great way to kick off the holiday season with your family," Harbor Country Singers Director Maggie Martin said.

Harbor Country Singers is a program of the School of American Music and is supported by a grant from the Pokagon Fund. The Episcopal Church of the Mediator is a partner providing the venue.

For more information, please contact the School of American Music at 269-409-1191, or email schoolofsmericanmusic@gmail.com, or visit the www.schoolofqmericanmusic.com. — STAFF REPORTSA

Sunset Shores Property Association (SSPOA) conducted its annual membership meeting at the New Buffalo Township library hall Oct. 7, during which members installed new officers and committee chairs.

The SSPOA advocates for 170 families in the Sunset Shores community to create a more healthy and supportive environment. Additionally, the organization owns/maintains the community park and manages and maintains the community beaches. Membership is voluntary, but SSPOA urges residents to join the organization by contacting the treasurer at sunsetshorestreasury@gmail.com

Pictured are (seated) Ron Watson, president; Arlene Pokuta, park chair; (standing, left to right) Missy Goldberg, vice president; Cheryl Istvan, treasurer; Sharon Kelly Kenny, by laws chair and Kathy Rohan, secretary.

Not pictured are Conrad Rieckhoff, past president and Rick Bogusz, beach chair.

— STAFF REPORTS

With honor

The New Buffalo American Legion Post 169 held a flag retirement ceremony Saturday, Nov. 11.

Members of the public were invited to bring flags that will be retired by burning on a special rack that has been fabricated.

According to legion.org, the Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags is outlined in Resolution No. 440 and passed by the 19th National Convention of The American Legion in New York, Sept. 20-23, 1937.

"The ceremony has been an integral part of American Legion ritual since that date," the website states. — STAFF REPORTS

Public Notice:
Your right to know!

for

PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.

State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.

Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

This newspaper supports your right to know.

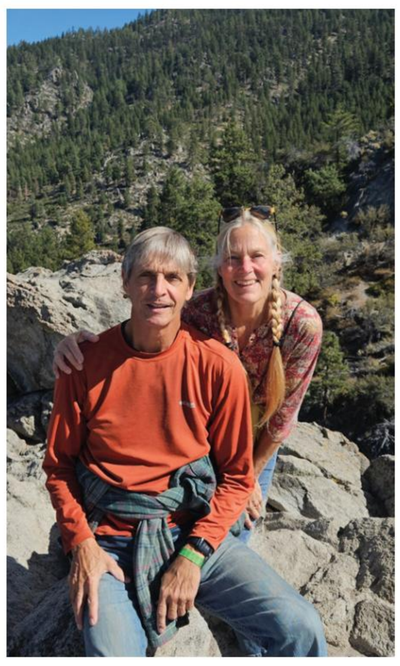
A Day in the Life

MIRACULOUS COUPLE RETIRING

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

Jeff with Dee Dee Reba, from India (where Jeff ministered) and her husband Emmanuel

Jeff Dryden with granddaughter, Sylvia



Jeff and Cindy Dryden

For more than three decades, an esteemed pastor and his talented wife have graced Harbor Country.

Combined, Jeff and Cindy Dryden of Sawyer Highlands Church and Converge Community Church are, to put it one way, a "dynamic duo."

Jeff was the senior pastor for the two churches, where he held his parishioners spellbound during his inspiring sermons. Cindy was at his side for all of his years of service.

In addition to delivering inspirational services, Pastor Jeff also devoted his precious time to his missionary work in Europe and the Middle East. Since his teachings from the Bible are contrary to other faiths, he would have to preach in a cloak of secrecy. This kind of tension does not make his job any easier. Then there are the mad airlines, which make traveling a nightmare of waiting and having to sleep in terminals - while waiting for yet another late flight. His recent trip took him two days to get home!

The couple's six kids, as well as their spouses and grandkids, keep Cindy hopping. In addition, she's also filled her schedule as music director at both churches.Not only did she select and direct the music, she could often be heard singing in her beautiful soprano voice. Not only did she direct, she also sang while playing the Baby Grand. Every Sunday, the congregation was treated to very classic biblical pieces. It was music that was from the Harbor Country Singers, a music group that Cindy had a dream of forming since childhood. The popular group also sang as a charitable gesture, and performed for the elderly in rest homes.

One Thanksgiving, I was invited by Cindy to join them for breakfast and a program after that. Everyone pitched in to prepare the feast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage and breakfast rolls. We all ate and then moved to the living room. When Cindy called for silence and introduced the first young man to speak he was so good I could not believe it! All around the room, each young person gave a little prayer that they had memorized. I was so blown away, I had trouble muttering my own little speech. I cannot recall attending anything so touching in my life!

The Drydens have inspired a legion of admirers and they could not know how we will all miss them and their warm hugs and their bright and shining faces.

A packed house witnessed a recognition program Sunday, which left us moved to tears. This was especially true when their six kids gave their heartfelt testimonials of their parents' deep commitment to them and to the church that they all shared the last 33 years.

It goes without saying that this couple has managed to move so many with their dedication and leadership in the church, while still finding time to commit for their six children and family.

Thank you, Jeff and Cindy, for what you have accomplished in leading the church, raising such a beautiful family and touching so many of us.

God bless.

30 N Whittaker St
Deli by day
David's delicatessen & coffee
NEW BUFFALO MICHIGAN
Open 6 days
davidsdeliandcoffee.com

30 N Whittaker St
Bar by night
the FALSE FRONT
NEW BUFFALO • MI
Open Thursday-Monday
thefalsefrontbar.com

INTEGRITY • EXPERIENCE • SUCCESS
L & B
LaRose & Bosco, Ltd.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
CHICAGO, IL • NEW BUFFALO, MI
MARK A. LAROSE
mlarose@laroseboscolaw.com
Real Estate, Business Law, Commercial Transactions, Injury Law
New Buffalo: (269) 469-8440
Chicago: (312) 642-4414

HOROSCOPE

NOVEMBER 16-22, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

You may find yourself in a lively and wicked mood this week. You are quick witted and are in need of some excitement and mentally stimulating conversation. Your intellectual capacity will have no restrictions and your ability to maneuver through tight situations will prove to be your greatest asset.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Issues with mother type figures or Women in general will be coming up this week. It will be possible to make a deeper connection with women and your feminine side now. Take this opportunity to unearth hidden ego issues and nurture yourself. Get in touch with healing power.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

You will feel like socializing and getting around like minded people this week. You have a lot to contribute to group projects and any place shared interest are needed. Helping and encouraging a friend who has been away or who lives afar is important to do now. Inspiring others is your gift.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

The focus this week is on the home and domestic chores. Getting your house cleaned and organized will give you more confidence and security. Creating a romantic atmosphere is no problem for sensual Cancer. Make a special dinner for that special someone and you can bank on a special night.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

You are experiencing a huge energy boost in your life right now. Keep it focused on you. Let issues with others go now. Focus on what makes you happy. It is important that you put yourself first. Your greatest good is for the greatest good of all concerned. We are all connected and share the Love.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

You can expect to feel an increase in your vitality and life force this week. If you have been under the weather or out of sorts expect to bounce back strong now. Also, you will have the opportunity to make good on some past mistakes or miscommunications now. Expect positive improvement.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Career and finances will be shifting for the better this week. If you have been struggling expect to get some relief. Opportunities will be on the increase and you can be sure there are some lucky breaks in the days ahead. Stay positive and know that you will soon see some results.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Happy times are in store for you over the next few weeks. Expect work related commitments to lead to a rewarding social experience. It is possible to mix business with pleasure at this time. This is a good time to add a little spice to your life. Put it out there and you may just pull in a keeper.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Passion and pleasure pursuits are a hot topic for you this week. Expect things to get extremely active over the next few days. You are feeling like taking more of a risk than you normally would. Be cautious and take others into consideration before making a major move on another.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

This is an excellent time to get serious about any long-term goals or plans. You are blessed with great insight at this time. You are in a position to see upcoming obstacles which will give you the opportunity to make changes in your game plan now. Trust your intuition and make the changes.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

You are feeling very ambitious and are making changes in your life to put yourself closer to your goals now. All well and good but you need to make sure you consider how you're affecting the relationships closest to you. You may run the risk of sacrificing partners for the attainment of goals.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

The powers of seduction and persuasion are at your disposal this week. Your magnetism is on the increase and you should have no trouble attracting anything or anyone. Use this as an opportunity to attract the greatest and highest possible fulfillment rather than just material and physical fulfillment.

When I convince myself: "be content with the circumstance," I feel good immediately. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

THE BENDT SHOVEL
Perennial Garden Maintenance
Sandra Bendt
(219) 874-2269

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

	7			2				9
		9					3	
	2					1		6
	1	4						
					7			8
	3			1				2
	6		1				4	3
			9					
7	4	8					2	

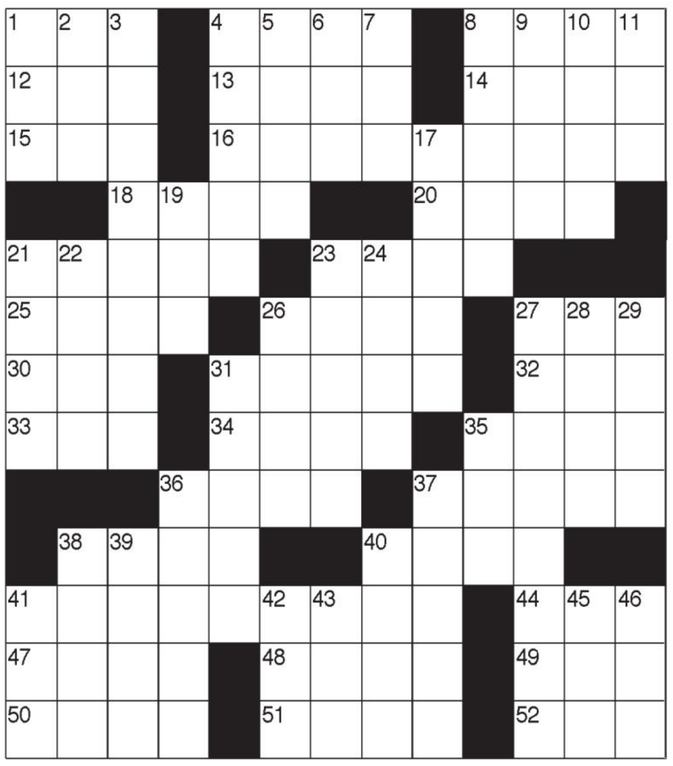
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

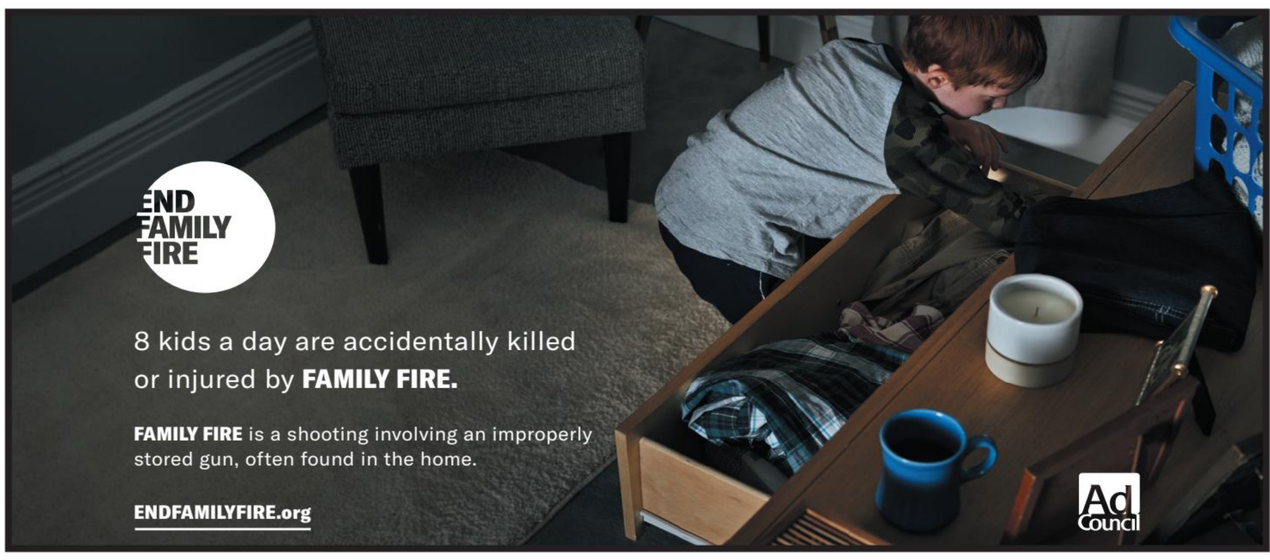
1 Fairy queen
4 This (Sp.)
8 Crazy
12 Presidential nickname
13 Exigency
14 Footless
15 Amer. Standard Version (abbr.)
16 Camera lens
18 Old-fashioned oath
20 Edge
21 Electric unit
23 Volcano crater
25 Gamin
26 Belgian (abbr.)
27 Rhine tributary
30 Newspaper
31 Right-hand page
32 "Blue Eagle"
33 Laconian clan group
34 Noun-forming (suf.)
35 92 (Rom. numeral)
36 Feminine (suf.)
37 Song of praise
38 Fr. chalk
40 College entrance exams
41 Punk
44 Tally
47 Indian lady
48 Freshwater worm
49 Harem room
50 Rosebud, e.g.
51 Weekly (abbr.)
52 Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Sheep's cry
2 Away (pref.)
3 Drink
4 Toward center
5 Sow
6 To or from a distance (pref.)
7 Soft drink
8 Brother of Abraham
9 Atop
10 Carry
11 Carriage
17 Destroying (pref.)
19 Prate
21 Gambling card game
22 Arabic (abbr.)
23 Birthplace of Mohammed
24 High (Lat.)
26 Inclination
27 Antecedent
28 Melody
29 Teem
31 Keck
35 Totem pole
36 Sp. hero (2 words)
37 Rice field
38 Work hard
39 Alb (arch.)
40 Earth
41 Television channel
42 Compass direction
43 Tree
45 Append
46 Sheep's cry



AT YOUR SERVICE
A COMPANY OF CRAFTSMEN
WWW.ATYOURSERVICE.BUILDERS
T.269.358.8159
CUSTOM: HOMES | RENOVATION | COMMERCIAL


END FAMILY FIRE
8 kids a day are accidentally killed or injured by FAMILY FIRE.
FAMILY FIRE is a shooting involving an improperly stored gun, often found in the home.
ENDFAMILYFIRE.org
Ad Council

SERVICE DIRECTORY

ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE
PLEASE CONTACT JANINE L. ADAMSKI
JANINEADAMSKI@GMAIL.COM
(630) 370-0820

Web Design
Genesis
Genesis Web Design
St Joseph, MI
269.429.7014
Design • Maintenance • Hosting

NEED A NERD
Guaranteed computer repairs, upgrades, and networking services for small businesses. Home based businesses welcome. Refurbished computers available.
(269) 612-4648
www.need-a-nerd.net

Amish Built Barns LLC
Largest Amish Dealer in SW Michigan
100 + MODELS ON LOT!
Custom Built!
No Credit Check!!
Rent to Own (Everyone Approved)
Sizes from 8'x8' to 32'x40'
AmishBuiltBarns.com • 269-876-1323 • 2305 M-139, Benton Harbor, MI
(Old Blossom Lanes Bowling Alley)

PROFESSIONALS IN ALL OF YOUR TREE CARE NEEDS
MAPLE CITY TREE SPECIALISTS
REMOVAL
TOPPING
TRIMMING
STUMP GRINDING
PRESERVATION
STORM DAMAGE
LOT & LAND CLEARING
FREE ESTIMATES
Commercial • Residential
37 Years Experience • Insured
DENNIS JEFFERS, SR.
219-393-3155
maplecitytree@comcast.net

ABUSE HOTLINE
You are not alone... we are here... 24/7
Sexual Abuse Hotline: 855-779-6495
Domestic Violence Hotline: 269-925-9500
TheAvenue.ngo/CoraLampingCenter
Cora Lamping Center • The Pokagon Fund Supported

Law enforcement has last laugh against jokester

BY STAN MADDUX

If he was really joking, it's no joking matter for him now in the eyes of law enforcement.

Charges have been filed against a La Porte man whose alleged prank had a store clerk afraid he was intent on robbing her.

Quintin Golden, 31, was inside the Family Express on J Street waiting in line to pay for a cigar Nov. 4, police said.

Suddenly, police said he announced he was robbing the place and told the clerk to give him everything in the register.

Surveillance video captured Golden stating "I hate to do this. Don't move. Give me everything in the register. Don't move," police said.

In response, the clerk said "Oh, my god. Not again," court documents revealed.

A short time later, Golden allegedly told her "It was just a joke."

After a male customer left the store, authorities said Golden was the only person left in line when he told the clerk he was waiting for him to leave.

He again instructed her to give him everything in the register.

A few seconds later, Golden said he was just playing and apologized, saying "It's Halloween," police said.

Golden could face an up to six-year sentence on Level 5 felony attempted robbery.

Evidence in the case does not indicate there was any actual attempt by Golden to rob the store.

However, under Indiana law, the case qualifies as attempted robbery because the clerk was placed under fear by the subject, said La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan.

State police investigating officer-involved-shooting

MALE SUSPECT KILLED AFTER EXCHANGE OF GUNSHOTS

The Michigan State Police (MSP) Fifth District Investigative Response Team (IRT) was requested by the Berrien County Prosecutor's Office to handle an officer-involved-shooting (OIS) involving Coloma Township Police and Berrien County Sheriff Department around 12:26 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13, in the 4300 block of Bundy Road in Hagar Township

According to a press release from the Michigan State Police, preliminary investigation reveals that two Coloma Township Police officers and one Berrien County Sheriff deputy responded to a domestic type incident at the venue. At some point during their investigation, gunshots were fired by the suspect and officers. The suspect, a 40-year-old male, was fatally shot. Also, an officer from Coloma Township Police suffered a non-life-threatening gunshot wound.

It is unknown who fired the first shot or how many were fired. MSP Lab was requested and responded to the scene for processing evidence.

An autopsy is scheduled to take place tomorrow at WMED. Names of the suspect and involved officers are being withheld at this time.

Follow up information will be shared as it becomes available, the release states. — STAFF REPORTS

Meth extracted from prison dental assistant

BY STAN MADDUX

A prison worker is accused of trying to smuggle drugs and tobacco into Westville Correctional Facility.

Jill Konieczny, 43, was a dental assistant at the prison, authorities said.

According to court documents, a hard object was felt between her legs during a routine pat-down search while reporting for work at the prison Nov. 6.

Konieczny allegedly claimed the object was a maxi pad because she was in her monthly menstrual cycle.

However, upon further investigation, the object found taped between her legs contained a large amount of methamphetamine and close to three ounces of tobacco.

Experts said the 147 grams of methamphetamine in her possession is enough to meet the needs of a single user for at least a year.

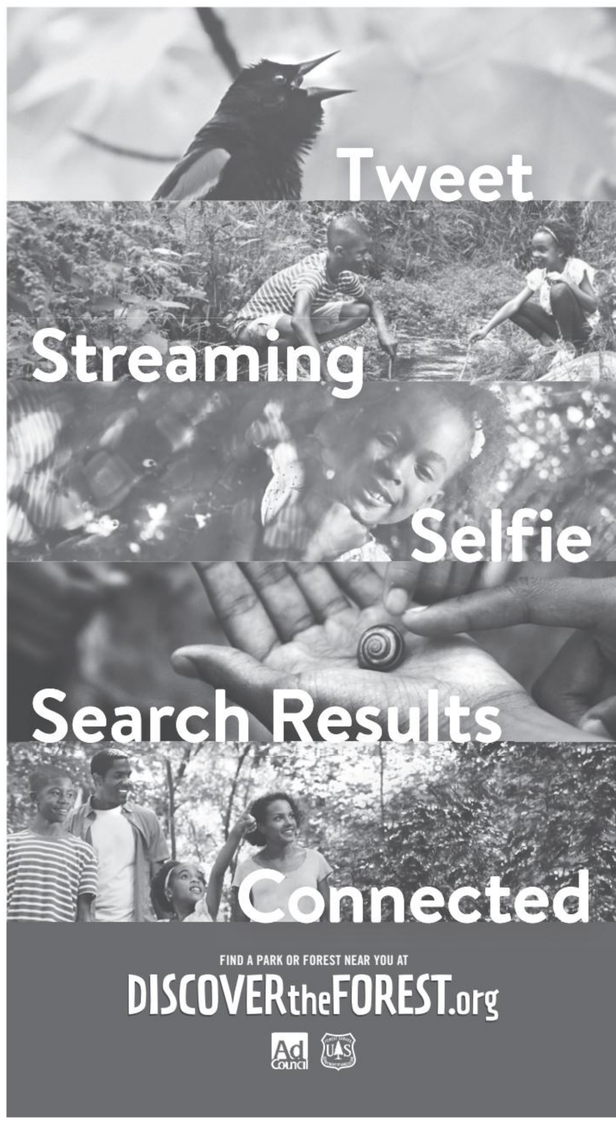
The Michigan City woman was being held in the La Porte County Jail on $50,000 bond.

She could face anywhere from a 10 to 30-year sentence on a Level 2 felony charges of dealing in methamphetamine and one to six years on a Level 5 felony charge of trafficking with an inmate.

The charges were filed in La Porte Circuit Court where Konieczny following an initial hearing Tuesday posted bond.

4	7	6	3	2	1	8	5	9
1	8	9	7	5	6	2	3	4
5	2	3	8	9	4	1	7	6
6	1	4	2	8	3	7	9	5
2	9	5	4	6	7	3	1	8
8	3	7	5	1	9	4	6	2
9	6	2	1	7	8	5	4	3
3	5	1	9	4	2	6	8	7
7	4	8	6	3	5	9	2	1

M	A	B	■	E	S	T	A	■	N	U	T	S		
A	B	E	■	N	E	E	D	■	A	P	O	D		
A	S	V	■	T	E	L	E	P	H	O	T	O		
■	■	E	G	A	D	■	■	H	O	N	E	■		
F	A	R	A	D	■	M	A	A	R	■	■	■		
A	R	A	B	■	B	E	L	G	■	A	A	R		
R	A	G	■	R	E	C	T	O	■	N	R	A		
O	B	E	■	E	N	C	E	■	X	C	I	I		
■	■	■	E	T	T	A	■	P	A	E	A	N		
■	T	A	L	C	■	■	S	A	T	S	■	■		
T	O	U	C	H	W	O	O	D	■	T	A	B		
B	I	B	I	■	N	A	I	D	■	O	D	A		
S	L	E	D	■	W	K	L	Y	■	R	D	A		



New Buffalo Middle School Principal Dan Caudle speaks at the ceremony

Members of the American Legion Post 169 Color Guard enter the Performing Arts Center

Students present the HERO pole

New Buffalo students recognize 'Hometown Heroes'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Some "hometown heroes" were recognized at New Buffalo Middle/High School during its annual Veteran's Day ceremony, which was put on by middle school students and was held in the Performing Arts Center Friday, Nov. 10.

"Not only are you our hometown heroes, you are our role models for all of us with regards to what the terms 'sacrifice,' 'service' and patriotism truly stand for - thank you again for your service to our country," Dan Caudle, middle school principal, said to the veterans who were in attendance.

The ceremony also celebrated the Marine Corps' 248th anniversary.

Students in Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapter at New Buffalo Middle School presented a HERO (Help Everyone Respect Others) pole. Throughout the first trimester, Caudle said students and staff have been taking the time to recognize people throughout the school and the community that are helping others and being respectful.

"I think our veterans are out there helping everyone and, of course, respecting others," he said.

In lieu of having a speaker, this year, respects were paid to Master Ken. Lee Shelby, who's been a part of the ceremony for several years and passed away Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023. Shelby, who was born Jan. 28, 1929, in Moorehouse, Missouri, honorably served in the United States Army as well as the Air Force. Shelby served a total of 37 years, including during World War II and the Korean War, as well as in the United States Army Reserves as an instructor.

In 2019, 90-year-old Shelby was chosen to be honored on the 90th Honor Flight, where veterans are flown to Washington D.C. to visit every monument.

The following middle school students were winners in this year's Patriot's Pen essay contest: first place, Emma Raducha; second place, Reese Watkins; third place, Rowan Castle-Brow and fourth place, Phoebe Zalewski.

Students shake the hands of veterans

Students are named winners of the Patriot's Pen essay contest

New Buffalo Middle School students open the ceremony with singing

The New Buffalo High School Band plays a medley of patriotic melodies

Passaro, Kahne, Taylor, DeFrancesco, & Thompson
LAW OFFICES *your local common-sense legal team*

685 West Main Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | (269) 983-0325 | passarokahne.com
17656A US Highway 12, New Buffalo, MI 49117 | (269) 469-5297 | Fax: (269) 983-0328

- *Business/Tax Law*
- *Estate Planning*
- *Medicaid & Long-Term Care Planning*
- *Real Estate*
- *Special Needs Planning*
- *Probate and Trust Administration*

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

November 24th thru 26th
Holiday Open House 11am-6pm
Complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres
and free gift wrap

November 25th
Shop small and local

Indian Summer BOUTIQUE
269·469·9994
439 S. WHITTAKER ST, NEW BUFFALO, MI

BUILDER SERVICE RETAIL

Pristine POOL & SPA, LLC

COME CHECK OUT OUR SHOWROOM!
18703 W US Hwy 12, New Buffalo, MI • 269.426.1251
info@pristinepoolspa.com pristinepoolspa.com
facebook.com/pristinepoolspa IG: @pristinepoolandspa

FEEL AT EASE WITH McGHEE'S
McGHEE'S
Heating & Air Conditioning, LLC
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
EMERGENCY SERVICE • LICENSED & INSURED
FREE
Ecobee 3 Thermostat; Aprilaire Media Air Cleaner; plus 1 Year FREE C.A.R.E. Club Maintenance Program with installation of a furnace.
Carrier
Turn to the experts
269-466-0123
7301 Red Arrow Hwy., Stevensville, MI 49127

Calvary Chapel
New Buffalo

CALVARYCHAPELNB.ORG

We are a non-denominational church teaching through the bible line by line
Sunday service 1015 ET
Thursday bible study 7pm ET
Saturday men's bible study 915 ET in person and zoom
Saturday women's bible study 1030 ET on zoom
1615 E Buffalo St. New Buffalo, Mi

Shop with confidence.

Learn more about Everwise credit cards at *everwisecu.com/creditcards*

everwise
CREDIT UNION

Subject to membership requirements and credit approval. Federally insured by NCUA.

Clothing • Accessories • Gifts

the Love Spell boutique

7 E Clay Street | New Buffalo, MI
At the Corner of Whittaker & Clay

JOURNEYMAN PRESENTS

AUTUMN ARTISAN MARKET

SHOPPING · TASTINGS · FOOD & DRINK

NOVEMBER 18 + 19
10:00AM - 5:00PM (EST)

JOURNEYMAN
THREE OAKS, MI | JOURNEYMAN.COM/EVENTS

MONDAYS:
ALL BURGERS
Buy 1 Get One
50% off
With purchase of 2 soft drinks

AL FUEGO
GRILL & BAR
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

BREAKFAST
SERVED DAILY

OPEN DAILY 8AM-9PM
18529 Harbor Country Drive
NEW BUFFALO
www.alfuegogrillbar.getbento.com